

LEAFSPOT, CERCOSPORA ODONTOGLOSSI Prillieux and Delacrois

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A serious fungus disease was found attacking young seedlings of Cattleya-type orchids in April of this year by Assistant District Plant Specialist J. W. Shirah at Ft. Myers. At least 800 plants were found infected at two nurseries in Ft. Myers. This disease has been found also in the Winter Haven and Miami areas.

The fungus has been reported attacking Odontoglossum citrosum, O. crispum and O. sp. in France and Massachusetts. In 1960, it was found on several plants of Cattleya intermedia at Miami, Florida. Seedlings in community pots and plants just removed from community pots are most susceptible. Those found infected to date are as follows: Cattleya aurantiaca, Brassolaeliocattleya x Mem. Crispin Resales, Laeliocattleya x Bonanza X Brassolaeliocattleya x Herons Ghyll, Potinara x Red Dawn X Brassolaeliocattleya Jewel Higdon, Brassolaeliocattleya x Herons Ghyll, Brassolaeliocattleya x Nacouchee X Laeliocattleya x Peggy Huffman, Brassocattleya x Hartland X Laeliocattleya x Bonanza, Laeliocattleya x David Lozoya X Brassolaeliocattleya x Normans Bay, Laeliocattleya x H. G. Alexander X Brassolaeliocattleya x Normans Bay and Cattleya spp. A few large seedlings of Cattleya-type orchids have recently been found infected with this fungus. They are as follows: Cattleya bicolor X Laeliocattleya x Charlesworthii, Cattleya x Iris X Cattleya granulosa, Brassolaeliocattleya x Ruth Witbeck, Laeliocattleya x Winifred Prah, Cattleya x Iris X Laeliocattleya x Brown Derby and Cattleya x Clariss X Laeliocattleya x Bimur.

SYMPTOMS

On young seedlings, symptoms first appear on the under sides of the leaves as tiny, slightly raised, dark brown spots (Fig. 1). Where only a few of the spots are present, little damage occurs. However, the fungus usually spreads and infects the whole leaf. When this happens, the entire leaf dies. The corresponding top leaf surface becomes chlorotic and, if infection is severe, finally becomes necrotic. The fungus on young seedlings may be confused with mite injury which it resembles. However, lesions caused by mites are sunken while those caused by Cercospora odontoglossi are slightly raised.

Leaves of a few nearly mature seedlings have recently been found infected with this fungus. Yellow, irregular spots were noted on both leaf surfaces. Older lesions were slightly sunken and were purplish-black in color. In no case was the entire leaf surface infected as is the case with young seedlings.

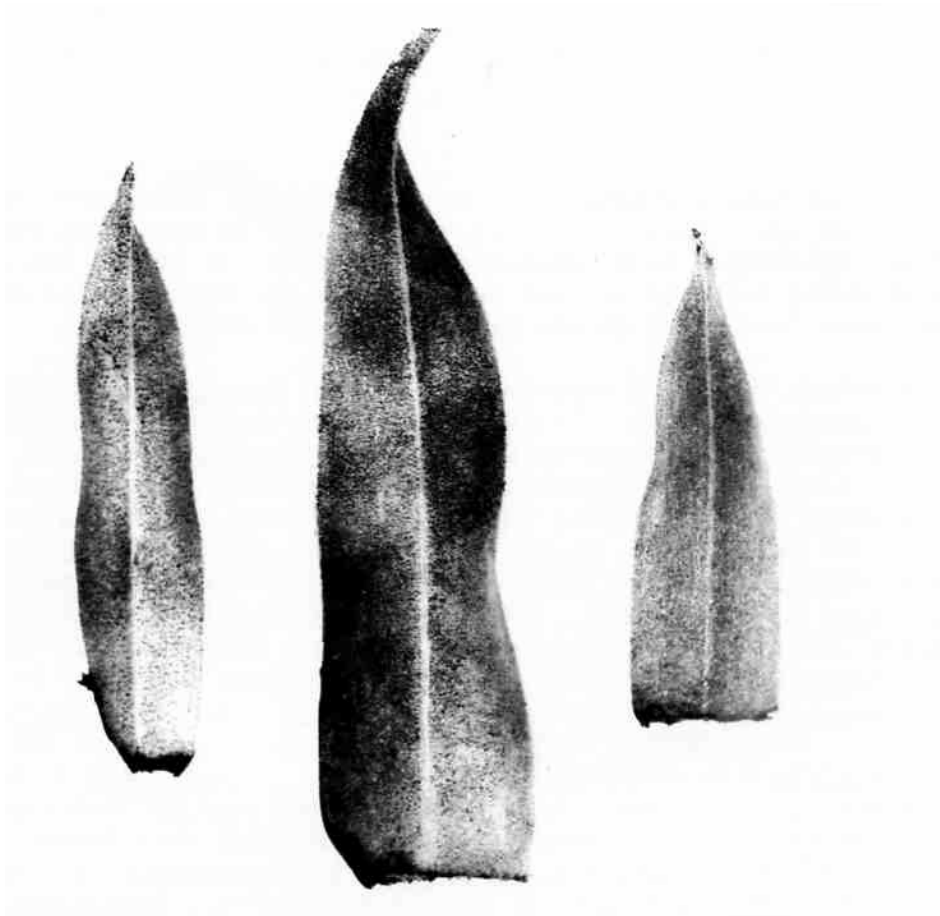


Fig. 1. Leafspot, *Cercospora odontoglossi* on undersides of leaves of young seedlings of *Brassolaeliocattleya* x *Mem. Crispin Rosales*.

CONTROL

Benomyl has given outstanding results in controlling the disease.